

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311280

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSTSEC ATHERTON AND PM DIRECTOR VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: COMMAND AND CONTROL (USMTM)

REF: JIDDA 7871

1. THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN CAREFUL REVIEW OF CONSIDERATIONS
NOTED REFTEL, DEPT HAS TAKEN NO FINAL POSITION ON QUESTION
OF PROVIDING THE CHIEF USMTM WITH OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER
COE PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA.

2. OUR BASIC CONCERN IS THAT US MILITARY ELEMENTS IN
SAUDI ARABIA BE ORGANIZED AND MANAGED EFFECTIVELY AND IN
HARMONY WITH THE NEEDS OF THE VARIOUS SAUDI PROGRAMS AND
IN A MANNER WHICH PERMITS YOU AS AMBASSADOR TO EXERCISE
YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OVERALL CONTROL.

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3. AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND PRECEDENT WE WOULD NOT WISH
TO GIVE A RECIPIENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE THE POWER TO
DECIDE HOW US ADVISORY AND OTHER SECURITY ASSISTANCE ELEMENTS
ARE TO BE ORGANIZED. IN SPECIFIC CASE OF SAUDI ARABIA,
HOWEVER, WE MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF MANNER IN WHICH OUR VARIOUS

PROGRAMS HAVE DEVELOPED AND FACT THAT SAG IS PAYING FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. THEREFORE WE AGREE FULLY THAT WE SHOULD TAKE NO FINAL POSITION ON THIS QUESTION IN DEPT AND SHOULD NOT

CLEAR ANY PROPOSAL IN THIS REGARD UNTIL WE HAVE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF LIKELY SAUDI REACTION TO PROPOSED REORGANIZATION.

4. AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, DEPT HAS NO FORMAL INDICATION OF WHAT DOD POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE. WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINITIVE DOD POSITION ON NEW COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR YOU TO RAISE THE PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN REFTEL WITH THE SAUDIS. WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF DOD THINKING ON THIS MATTER FOLLOWING THE DOD QUARTERLY REVIEW.

ROBINSON

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